THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The existing TV transmitters/relay centre provide service to about 49.6 per cent area of the country.

(b) and (c) Electronic Trade & Technology Development Corporation (ETTDC), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Electronics, under their Material Technology Brand (MTB), are providing help to TV industry to produce quality products at reasonable cost by supplying material procured by them in bulk along with necessary technology. Secondly, industrial approvals are issued liberally with viable production capacity to derive economies of scale and encourage healthy competition. Thirdly, broad banding has been allowed for the entertainment electronics. Fourthly, the electronics components industry has been delicensed including MRTP companies and import of technology in this sector is liberally permitted. Fifthly, excise duty on 31cms|36cms size black and white TV sets has been abolished.

(d) and (e) Provision of community viewing TV sets is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Govts./Union Territory Administrations. However, as far as Central Govt. is concerned, by the end of Sixth Plan (31-3-1985), 10876 community viewing TV sets were installed in various parts of the country. As a special case, it has been decided to provide during the Seventh Plan period 5000 community viewing TV sets in seven States of North-East region, one hundred sets in the State of Sikkim and eight in Lakshadweep Group of Islands. Installation of the sets has already commenced.

Reaction to Interim Report of Bachawat Commission

964. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bachawat Commission has submitted an interim report to Government; if so, when;

(b) what is the reaction thereto, from the journalists of news agencies, newspapers and non-journalist employees; and

(c) Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Jaurnalist Newspaper employees publicised on the 29th August, 1988 their tentative proposals on wage rates and allied matters and called for submissions thereon by 17th October, 1988.

(c) Does not arise.

Temporary Employees of AIR and Doordarshan

965. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had opined that the temporary artists of All India Radio and Doordarshan be considered as regular employees of the Government; if so, the date and text of the relevant portion of the judgement; and

(b) the follow-up action so far and steps proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) In 1982, the Government introduced a scheme for grant of pension to Staff Artists of AIR and Doordarshan who were engaged on long term contract. Under the scheme the Staff Artists were to be converted as (i) Government servants; (ii) Artists on the basis of their duties and further subject to their option and being found fit in screening. This scheme was challenged in the Supreme Court. Relevant extracts from the judgement of the Supreme Court delevered on 25th April, 1988, are attached. (*See* Statement below.)

(b) The Judgement is at an advanced stage of implementation.

Statement

Relevant Extracts from judgement given by the honourable Supreme Court on 25-4-1988 *in the case of National Union of All India Radio and others* versus *Union of India and another*

In Civil Appeal No. 384 of 1977 Union of India vs. M. .A Chowdhary (A.I.R. 1987) Supreme Court 1526) we have declared that all the Staff Artists of the All India Radio are holding civil posts under the Government and they are governed by Article 311(2) of the Constitution of India.

In view of the above decision it is no longer necessary to make any further declaration in these petitions that the staff artists are Government servants. The Circular dated 3rd May, 1982 bearing No. 45011|26|80-B(A) issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India proceeded on the assumption that the staff artists who had entered the service of the All India Radio/ Doordarshan under the contracts were not Government servants and that only those staff artists specifically mentioned in that circular could become and be treated as Government servants provided they satisfied the conditions mentioned therein. In view of the decision referred to above it has now become necessary fo rthe Government to review the entire question covered by the Circular dated 3rd May, 1982. We, therefore, direct the Government of India to review the entire situation and to prepare a fresh scheme in accordance with law having regard to the nature of the duties performed by each category of staff artists. While preparing such a scheme the Government may also keep in view the cases of staff artists who have already exercised their option as provided by the Circular dated 3rd May, 1982.

Tour of Mid-east Countries by NCCF Official

966. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Regional Manager (West) of NCCF officially toured mid-east countries in 1983-84 for import of dry fruits and his itinerary was approved in advance by relevant authorities including Reserve Bank of India for foreign exchange as also approval of the Department of Civil Supplies for onward recommendations to R.B.I.;

(b) whether he also visited Dubai from Iran without any prior programme and approval and though his said visit to Dubai was purely personal and he charged the office for expenses thereto;

(c) if so, how were such improper expenses approved and by whom; and

(d) whether the amount involved has been recovered from the said officer and what action is proposed to be taken against the guilty officer as also the others concerned in reimbursement of the amount not due to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The officer officially visited Middle East countries from 1-10-1982 to 14-10-1982, including Dubai and not during 1983-84. His Tour Programme for these countries was approved by the then Executive Director of the Federation in advance.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Sale of gram by NCCF to Fake Firm oil Delhi

967. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Branch Manger Delhi of NCCF sold 1200 bags of gram in 1978-79 in market in the name of M|s. Agarwal Traders, a fake firm;

(b) whether these stocks were termed as flood affected though there was no flood in godown and a fake report was prepared for the purpose by Assistant Manger in connivance of said Branch Manager and by this sale, these officers defrauded and cheated the Federation for about Rs.4 lacs;

(c) whether any report of Flood Authority was called for by NCCF and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken against the responsible officers for acts